



CALTRANS PRESS RELEASE

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Interstate 15 Pavement & Truck Lanes Open to Traffic Early for Holiday Travelers

Mountain Pass – High desert travelers can now look forward to a smooth ride on the I-15. Stakeholders and agency representatives celebrated today as all lanes on the I-15 opened to traffic on Tuesday, November 24. Caltrans started work on this \$87 million state funded project in Spring of 2008 and expected to finish in summer of 2010. By accelerating the blasting of rocky slopes on “Dynamite Wednesdays” the contractor, Las Vegas Paving was able to complete the work months ahead of schedule. Caltrans District Director Dr. Raymond Wolfe stated, “Drivers on the I-15 will enjoy smooth ride just in time for the holiday season”.

The project limits are between Bailey Road and Yates Wells Road. The improvements include new asphalt pavement, new longer lasting concrete pavement for the existing southbound truck lane and the addition of truck descending lane, wider paved shoulders, improved ramps, upgraded guardrail and drainage system. Caltrans has been paving lanes and added new northbound truck descending lane to improve safety and traffic flow through the mountain pass grade. The truck lane provides improved safety for the slow moving vehicles and less frustration for other drivers. Daily more than 47,000 motorists depend on the I-15 who travel between Las Vegas Resort area and California. Special weekend events in Vegas can draw nearly 300,000 into town and almost 150,000 are drivers.

Coordination between Department of Transportation for both Nevada and California helped make the work go swiftly. Caltrans involved many of the stakeholders such as Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, California and Nevada Highway Patrol, and Highway Radio. The partnership team’s goal was to minimize public inconvenience and impacts to the economy, improve safety and delivery it early. An extensive public outreach program that announced longer work periods allowed the contractor get the work done quicker while maintaining safety in the work zone. The public’s understanding and support during the highway shut down for “Dynamite Wednesday” made a big difference. The good news is the extended closure periods are over (no more full freeway closures), the roads are paved, and they are all open to traffic to enjoy them now.

Even though the lanes are open, the contractor will be doing some minor work in the coming months that require minimal lane restrictions. Enjoy the drive on the I-15, but remember as you enter the work zone, slow for the cone zone.

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